

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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Buffalo, New York 14202

PRESS RELEASE

January 21, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. WILLIAM WESTBROOK

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that WILLIAM WESTBROOK, age 50, of Buffalo, New York, pled guilty before Honorable Richard J. Arcara, United States District Judge to a two count information, charging him with one count of possession of cocaine base with intent to distribute in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) and one count of possession of a stolen firearm in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(j). The charges in the information carry maximum possible penalties of 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine and 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000, respectively.

United States Attorney Battle stated that the defendant admitted to possessing for distribution purposes a quantity of crack cocaine found in the pocket of a Buffalo Police Department

uniform shirt and a stolen .44 caliber handgun at his residence in Buffalo, New York. The crack cocaine and firearm were discovered during the execution of a search warrant at the defendant's residence on September 30, 2003. At the time of the defendant's arrest, he was employed as a police officer in the City of Buffalo. He has since resigned from the police department.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter J. Ahearn, the New York State Police, under the direction of Major Thomas M. Fresenius, Special Investigations Unit and the assistance of the Professional Standards Division of the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of Commissioner Rocco Diina.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 5, 2004 at 12:30 p.m. in front of Hon. Richard J. Arcara, United States District Judge. It is anticipated that the defendant will face a term of imprisonment of 24 to 30 months under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.